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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/520,995	MCLEISH, GRAHAM JOHN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	James R. Harvey	2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to interview dated 4-14-06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,4-6,8-10,12-17,21,24,25,29-34 and 41.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

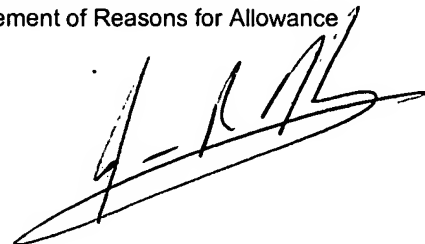
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>20060415</u>. 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|--|---|



EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312.

To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Graham Mcleish on 4-14-06.

2. The application has been amended as follows:
3. Please replace all previous listing of claims with the following claims:

Claim 1(currently amended)

An electrical connector comprising a male part and a female part for engagement therewith; the male part comprising a first terminal having a circular cross section and a second terminal; the female part comprising engaging means to engage said terminals; wherein the male and female parts each comprise a magnetic portion adapted to magnetically attract the parts together to form an electrical connection; magnetic misconnection means are provided ~~[[to]]~~ that prevent the male and female parts from ~~connecting~~ magnetic attachment in a non-concentric position; wherein at least some of a magnetic field emitted from at least one of the magnetic portions extends beyond the magnetic misconnection means to attract the parts together to form an electrical connection.

Claim 2(canceled)

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Claim 3(canceled)

Claim 4(previously presented)

A connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the magnetic misconnection means comprises a wall extending away from the magnetic portion of one of the male and female parts, the wall being adapted to prevent the male and female parts from connecting in a non-concentric position.

Claim 5(previously presented)

A connector as claimed in claim 4, wherein at least one of the male and female parts is attached to pendent means.

Claim 6(original)

A connector as claimed in claim 5, wherein one of the male and female parts is attached to pendent means and the other of the male and female parts comprises the wall.

Claim 7(canceled)

Claim 8(previously presented)

A connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the female part has a projecting portion which is adapted to be received within the male part.

Claim 9(original)

A connector as claimed in claim 8, wherein the magnetic portion of the female part has a magnetic field which extends beyond the projecting portion to attract the parts together to

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form an electrical connection.

Claim 10(previously presented)

A connector as claimed claim 8, wherein the projecting portion is adapted to have a degree of freedom to pivot within the male part.

Claim 11(canceled)

Claim 12(previously presented)

A connector as claimed in claim 8, wherein the projecting portion has at least one aperture to receive at least one of the male terminals.

Claim 13(previously presented)

A connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first terminal is a neutral terminal and the second terminal is a live terminal and the engaging means of the female part comprise respective neutral and live terminals.

Claim 14(original)

A connector as claimed claim 13, wherein the neutral and live terminals of the female part are enclosed.

Claim 15(previously presented)

A connector as claimed in claim 13, wherein the neutral and live terminals of at least one of the male and female parts are resilient.

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Claim 16(previously presented)

A connector as claimed in claim 13, wherein the male and female parts each include an earth terminal which are adapted to engage with each other.

Claim 17(previously presented)

A connector as claimed in claim 16, wherein the male earth terminal is concentric with at least one of the first and second terminals of the male part.

Claims 18-20(canceled)

Claim 21(previously presented)

A connector as claimed in claim 16, wherein the terminals are adapted to engage in the order: earth, then neutral, then live when the male and female parts are being connected and are adapted to disengage in the order: live, then neutral, then earth when said parts are being disconnected.

Claim 22 and 23(canceled)

Claim 24(previously presented)

A connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the magnetic portions have a circular cross section.

Claim 25(original)

A connector as claimed in claim 24, wherein the magnetic portions are in the form of an annular ring.

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Claims 26-28(canceled)

Claim 29(previously presented)

A connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of the male and female parts is also adapted for use with any type of electrical appliance.

Claim 30(previously presented)

A connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the male and female parts are adapted to be attracted together to form an electrical connection when they are between 1 cm and 30 cm apart.

Claim 31(previously presented)

A connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the male and female parts are adapted to be attracted together to form an electrical connection when they are between 2 cm and 30 cm apart.

Claim 32(previously presented)

A connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the male and female parts are adapted to be attracted together to form an electrical connection when they are at between 5 cm and 30 cm apart.

Claim 33(previously presented)

A connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the parts comprises a tapered face adapted to guide the parts together.

Claim 34(previously presented)

A connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and second terminals are concentric.

Claims 35-40(canceled)

Claim 41(previously presented)

A connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the male and female parts are adapted to engage with each other in any relative rotational orientation.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

- The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art does not show male and female parts that each have a magnetic portion adapted to magnetically attract the parts together to form an electrical connection and magnetic misconnection means are provided that prevent the male and female parts from magnetic attachment in a non-concentric position; wherein some of a magnetic field emitted from at least one of the magnetic portions extends beyond the magnetic misconnection means to attract the parts together for form an electrical connection in combination with all the other elements of the claim and the examiner knows of no permissible motivation to combine the prior art such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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5. The following is an examiner's summary of the interview: During the interview, it was agreed that it would not be obvious to combine prior art because of the claimed magnetic portion adapted to magnetically attract the parts together to form an electrical connection and magnetic misconnection means are provided that prevent the male and female parts from magnetic attachment in a non-concentric position.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James R. Harvey whose telephone number is 571-272-2007. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 A.M. To 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext. 33. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2800.

- All patent application related correspondence transmitted by facsimile must be directed to the central facsimile number, **571-273-8300**, with a few exceptions. Replies to Office actions including after-final amendments that are transmitted by facsimile must be directed to the central facsimile number. Unofficial correspondence such as draft proposed amendments for interviews may continue to be transmitted by facsimile to the Technology Centers.

James R. Harvey, Examiner

jrh
April 17, 2006

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'JRH', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.